

Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting 1 - Summary
February 1, 2011

Welcome/Introductions

- Councilmember Tom Rasmussen
 - Welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their participation
 - Important funding decisions to make
 - Urged the committed to look at the various modes of transportation – don't get boxed in to a decision. Encouraged independent thinking
 - Reiterated importance of gathering public input
- Peter Hahn, Director, Seattle Department of Transportation
 - Echoed much of what Councilmember Rasmussen said
 - Described his vision of the process as having four parts:
 - Review transportation plans to understand needs and prioritization criteria
 - Look at data in SDOT's Asset Management Program
 - Consider the outcome of four years of Bridging the Gap implementation
 - Recalibrate transportation priorities with today's needs
 - Mentioned their decisions would have a long lasting impact on the city
 - He is available to meet with or talk to any committee member if they have questions, comments or concerns
- Mayor Mike McGinn
 - Many thanks to everyone for agreeing to serve on the committee
 - He was a part of CTAC II and the citizen's committee that ultimately put BTG on the ballot, understands the difficult decisions that the group faces
 - Wants the city to be economically competitive and work for everyone
 - In this time of tight budgets, encourage the committee to think about how choices or options can be maximized
 - He looks forward to working with the group and seeing the outcome

Committee Work Plan and Schedule

- Tracy Burrows, CTAC III Project Manager, SDOT
 - Reviewed the origins of CTAC III and the work plan as established by Resolution 31240
 - Committee has two tasks
 - Task 1 – develop a proposed project list and spending plan for the \$20 VLF adopted by the Transportation Benefit District (TBD), by May 2011
 - Task 2 – propose possible transportation funding options for the ballot, by June 2011
 - CTAC III has a webpage that will be continually updated with documents and links to various materials

- Committee members asked about the format of the project prioritization recommendation; whether it would recommend a methodology or would recommend actual project lists.
 - Group will review the methodology and the resulting project lists
- It was noted that this process is very different from previous efforts
 - Plans are now available (Bike and Ped Master Plans)
 - Transit Master Plan in development
 - Needs are organized and better understood
 - High overview of BTG and was it prescribed by ordinance
 - No less than 67% for maintenance, no less than 18% for ped/bike/safety, and no more than 15% for enhanced transit service
- Good opportunity to look at things and decide the methodology that best reflects the city's transportation priorities

Budget Briefings

- Hall Walker, Deputy Budget Director, City Budget Office
 - Overview of the city budget, challenges ahead for funding capital projects and policy considerations
 - The city has many capital needs, not just in transportation
 - Question-Can the city borrow against the General Fund with no identified funds?
 - Yes.
 - If we (CTAC III) wanted to recommend that the VLF go to \$80, is there a path to get us there?
- Lenda Crawford, Resource Management Division, SDOT
 - Overview of the SDOT budget and the challenges the department faces
 - SDOT has many different funding sources – Local funding, grants and partnerships, Bonds and other debt, reimbursable work
 - Question – where does grant and partnership money come from?
 - Local, Regional, State and Federal sources – funding is project specific
 - Question about reimbursable work – does this include transfers from other departments?
 - Yes – for example SPU hires us to restore the street surface after they have completed work.
 - Majority of SDOT funding goes to capital projects
 - Where does pay station revenue go?
 - General Fund - theoretically it comes back to SDOT as our portion of the General Fund
 - Lots of discussion in Olympia about local transportation funding options
 - Street Utility Fee
 - VLF for Transit
 - 2011 VLF funding is tied to current projects (\$4.1 m for operations and \$400,000 for PMP Contributions)

- SDOT will be faced with a funding gap for existing maintenance in 2012 if changes made to VLF proposed project list , additional \$2m in revenue will be available in 2012
- Several committee members expressed concern that they really didn't have a say in how the \$20 VLF funding going forward would be used as they were told their first task was to make recommendations for that funding and now it appears that a large portion of the money is allocated and they will have to decide what may be cut.
- Staff reiterated the committee could decide priorities for \$20 VLF should be different than City assumed for 2011/12 and acknowledged allocating limited resources are tough decisions
- Need to look at projects not impacts to city staff
- Asset Management – need to manage our assets to extend their life
- Funding options used in the past
 - Transportation Street Fund
 - Local Improvement Districts
 - Federal Government used to pay a larger share of large capital projects

Committee Business

- Co-chairs were selected
 - It was moved (Lyn Tangen) and a seconded (Barbara Wright) that Ref Lindmark and Kate Joncas serve as co-chairs – unanimous.
- Meeting dates and times
 - 3:30 - 5:30 or 4:00 - 6:00pm?
 - Send out a doodle calendar request and see what works best for the group as a whole
- Decision making process
 - Will strive for consensus, but acknowledge that a minority report may be part of the final report
- Public comment
 - Time will be reserved at the beginning of each meeting to hear from the public if they wish to make comments
- Contact information
 - Dawn Schellenberg's phone number and email is on the CTAC web page.
 - Agreed this was appropriate and Schellenberg will contact committee members about specific requests
- Media
 - Anyone on the committee is welcome to express their feelings about CTAC III and transportation to the media, but should not presume to speak for the committee

Action Items

- Compile web links to various city plans in one space for ease of research/review.

- Assemble information on SDOT's debt